

Claims

- [c1] 1. An automotive interior trim assembly for an automobile, comprising:
 - a substrate member forming at least part of a structural support of the trim assembly and including a least one target area for providing a soft feel to the trim assembly;
 - a plurality of apertures formed in said substrate member within said target area; and
 - a flexible skin disposed directly over and contacting said substrate member, at least proximate said target area.
- [c2] 2. The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said plurality of apertures are formed in a generally honeycomb pattern.
- [c3] 3. The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said plurality of apertures are formed through said substrate member.
- [c4] 4. The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said plurality of apertures are blind holes formed into said substrate member.
- [c5] 5. The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said plurality of apertures comprise slots formed through said substrate member.

- [c6] 6.The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said substrate member is formed from an injection moldable polymer.
- [c7] 7.The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said skin comprises vinyl.
- [c8] 8.The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein at least some of said apertures are at least partially filled with a material which forms said flexible skin.
- [c9] 9.A method of forming an automotive interior trim assembly in a two-shot molding operation, comprising:
 - injecting a first material to form a substrate member having apertures in a target area for providing a soft-feel to the trim assembly; and
 - injecting a second material to form a pliable skin layer over the substrate member, the skin layer contacting the substrate member at least in the target area.
- [c10] 10.The method of claim 9, wherein the injecting step further comprises forming apertures through the substrate.
- [c11] 11.The method of claim 9, wherein the injecting step further comprises forming the apertures as blind holes.
- [c12] 12.The method of claim 9, further comprising:filling at least some of the apertures at least partially with the

second material.